A Message from the Head of School

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 two new educators to the Saint Mark ohana this year - Mr. Nathan Fosket (grade 5) and Ms. Brooke-Lee Kaululau (aftercare). Please join me in extending to both of them a warm aloha as they join our family.

The complete 2015-2016 Saint Mark faculty and staff are listed as follows:

Kindergarten - Mrs. Gonzalez
  Grade 1 - Mrs. Venegas
  Grade 2 - Mrs. McMillian
  Grade 3 - Ms. Gerling
  Grade 4 - Ms. Camit
  Grade 5 - Mr. Fosket

Middle School Science, Math & Bible - Ms. Pelletier
Middle School English, Math & Bible - Mrs. Schroppel
Middle School Social Studies, English & Bible - Mrs. Souki
Middle School P.E., K-5 Bible & Director of Christian Education - Ms. 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, K-2 Choir, 5 & 6 Choir, and 7 & 8 music - Mr. Bauchle
3 & 4 Choir and K-2 Choir accompanist - Mrs. Pescht
Kindergarten Educational Assistant & Before Care Worker - Mrs. Akaka
Grade 1 Educational Assistant & After Care Worker - Ms. Courtney Gibo
Library, Grade 1, 3 & 4 Educational Assistant & After Care Worker - Mrs. Manu
After Care - Mrs. Gibo, Mrs. Manu & Ms. Courtney Gibo & Ms. Brooke
Administrative Assistant/Admissions Coordinator - Mrs. Lee
Business Manager - Mrs. Lawrence and Pastor - Rev. Matthew Hilpert

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!

PTC - Funding Teacher Programs

As we plunge into the new academic year, the Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) would like to take some time to highlight just a few of the wonderful things last year’s PTC accomplished with your generosity and support.

The PTC played a large role in assisting the school with its 5th Annual Gala, which brought in over $20,000 to support the school’s growing financial aid program as well as technology developments in the classrooms. The PTC also created a new process whereby faculty members may request PTC funds to purchase classroom supplies and to help fund enrichment opportunities for the students. Since then, the PTC has voted to award over $1,400 in funding to help purchase equipment for the classroom literacy centers, equipment for the school vegetable and butterfly garden, etc. The PTC also held its annual Rummage Sale Fundraiser to help support the PTC in carrying out its mission, and also hosted its annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon to thank the faculty and staff for all they do for our students.

This year, the PTC has a lot of fun and exciting activities planned, and with your continued support, we are looking forward to another great school year!
Kindergarten: On your mark, get set, go! Kindergarten is off to a fantastic start! The kindergarteners were excited to start kindergarten at Saint Mark Lutheran School. During these first weeks the students have been busy getting to know each other and making new friends, reviewing numbers and letters, and learning about Jesus. They also got a chance to meet and spend time with their new eighth grade chapel buddies. This month the kindergarteners can’t wait to cool off from the summer heat and go swimming at the Kokokahi YWCA. They are excited and looking forward to learning lots of new things and having a great school year.

First Grade: The first graders have experienced a lot of “firsts” in the first month of school. They have completed their first math minute, spelling test, art project, gumball math and friendly letter. They also learned about raz-kids on-line reading center. Last week, they enjoyed lunch with their seventh grade chapel buddies. They had a successful first two weeks of swimming lessons at YWCA. The children are looking forward to their first Open Market at the end of the quarter. They have been anxiously saving their play money! Thank you to those who came to Back-To-School Night Orientation. It has been a wonderful start to a new year!

Second Grade: The super second graders started off the school year learning valuable rules and procedures in class. Then the fun began! They learned how to use “green screen” technology to make pictures of them flying above cities and galaxies. They also completed two STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) projects. This week, they are finishing chapter one of their math book, learning about communities and studying for their very first spelling and vocabulary quizzes. They are also learning about all of God’s creation through their One in Christ books and activities they are doing with Ms. Morris. Overall, the second graders are off to a great start!

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: Hello from the third graders! We are busy learning about place values in math. We take a daily speed drill in addition and are getting faster by the day! Our class has started learning how to control our pencils and chalk to get ready for cursive writing. All the students have met with the teacher one-on-one to read aloud. We have been busy getting to know each other and learning how to work together to make the SMLS third grade class the best it can be!

Fourth Grade: Fourth graders are really taking off! The students are adjusting to the new work and activities in fourth grade and are discovering how our amazing Hawaiian islands were created. Lots of volcano exploring is being done and interesting facts uncovered. A special guest visited us to do a presentation on our island geology.

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: Fifth grade successfully got to work right out of the gate this year. The big project we are working is our Native American Study. The class is split into 4 groups, each representing a Native American region. The groups have been working over the last couple of weeks to masters their region by making posters, 3D models and other different ways to display what they know about the group. They will then teach the rest of the class about their Native American group. Students are learning to work together, find information through books and the internet, as well as creatively present what they have learned.
Miss Pelletier’s News:
Sixth grade Bible is studying the unit focusing on Jesus’s birth and life, connecting to the church season of Epiphany.

Middle school science classes started the year with a fun and interesting gummy bear lab. Sixth grade is now studying different types of landforms and how they are represented on maps. Seventh graders are studying organisms and how they are classified and eighth graders are studying matter, more specifically, the characteristics and states of matter.

Seventh grade math students are adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals and integers, using the order of operations and finding mean, median, mode and range of sets of numbers.

Eighth grade Algebra class is finishing up a review chapter on functions and patterns, and also looked at scatter plots and other graphs and ways to display data.

Mrs. Schroppel’s News:
Seventh grade students are really stepping up to the responsibility of being chapel buddies with the 1st graders, and enjoyed eating lunch and having recess with them.

In Bible we are learning about God and His Word. Our focus this year is 1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Therefore ENCOURAGE one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

Sixth grade math has reviewed place value, exponents and estimation. Seventh and eighth grade pre-algebra students are learning the language of Algebra and studying algebraic expressions and integers. The first test is coming up!

Eighth grade English class is reviewing Shurley, classifying sentences, working on essay writing, vocabulary (Wordly Wise) and literature. They are also reading Uglies, a young adult book about a utopian society where everyone gets to become “pretty” on their 16th birthday.

Mrs. Souki’s News:
Bible class had fun getting to know their chapel buddies. Eighth graders read them a few books on prayer and helped with a craft. They brought in templates of cell phones and a picture of Jesus so the kindergarteners could “call” on Jesus whenever they need anything.

Sixth grade English students took their first Wordly Wise and Shurley tests and are singing jingles and learning about grammar. A figurative language poetry unit and working with personification and onomatopoeia poetry are next. They will start a class novel soon.

Seventh grade English has completed the first Wordly Wise and Shurley tests. Students continue to sing jingles and learn about sentence structures and grammar. The first class novel is The Giver and there will be a poetry unit in a few weeks.

In world history sixth graders are enjoying new textbooks and learning basic concepts of history like historical sources, maps, themes of geography, etc.

Seventh grade World Geography students are studying the physical structures of the Earth, then moving on to economic, political, and cultural systems for a basic understanding of how humans interact with the world.

Eighth grade U.S. history is studying Native American tribes and nations. They will also study the European explorers and the motivation behind their journeys. Then students will visit the Mission House Museum as we study the colonization of North America and the American Revolution.

Miss Morris’ News:
Saint Mark Lutheran Church invites all school families to come and check out our exciting ministries. We offer Sunday School, Youth Quest, High School Bible Study, Women’s Bible Study, and Men in the Word. Our Keiki and Youth Ministries also have fun events. For more information please email Ms. Morris at sarah@stmarkhawaii.org. We hope you and your student grow academically and also in your faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The students in middle school P.E. began their first Fitnessgram Testing, giving us a baseline to see how we develop in our athleticism this year. We are starting volleyball to get ready for a great Volleyball season for our varsity and junior varsity teams. For more information on Fitnessgram Testing please see Ms. Morris’ teacher webpage.

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!
Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

The PTC is a voluntary parent teacher organization with the goal of helping to improve and enhance the learning environment for the students of Saint Mark.

The PTC is busy at work planning the 6th Annual Benefit Gala...

The gala is scheduled for Saturday, November 7 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 very important financial aid program and to continue our enhancement of the school's technology (new computers, iPads, etc.).

Thank you to the parents who have offered to serve and assist with the PTC!

This & That

On Wednesday, September 16th, the kindergartners will celebrate Grandparents’ Day. They will proudly show off all they are learning and introduce papa and tutu to their classmates and classroom.

Make plans to attend the Fall Family Night on Friday, September 11. It will be a fun-filled movie night with the fourth graders selling food as a fundraiser for their Big Island trip.

September 14-18 is our Fall Scholastic Book Fair, it will be open on the Fall Family Night. If you are interested in helping with the book fair please call Mrs. Lee in the school office.

The August Chapel Offerings will go to Lutheran Bible Translator. Please put your child’s name on jackets, lunch boxes, etc. If something hasn’t made it’s way home please come and check the lost and found in the school office.

Saint Mark will once again be participating in Foodland’s annual Give Aloha program! Throughout September customers are invited to make donations at check out (up to $249 per person, per organization) to Saint Mark Lutheran School. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation up to a total of $300,000 for all organizations combined. More details will be sent home in the near future.

Remember, once again we are depending on everyone’s support to help make the 6th Annual Benefit Gala scheduled for Saturday, November 7th, 2015 a huge success!