A Message from the Head of School

The WASC / HAIS / NLSA accreditation visiting committee has completed their four day visit at Saint Mark, and I am happy to report that their time with us was wonderful!

The team meticulously read our self-study document before their visit. Then once on campus, they thoroughly investigated our programs, visited our classrooms, met with our different constituencies, and then shared their findings in a comprehensive report. The entire process was extremely positive and reaffirming. They validated what we are doing well but also provided us with specific ideas on how to enhance our programs and offerings in the future. The full results of their visit will be given to us after the accreditation commission meets later this spring. We are excited to move forward with some clear goals that help to pave a meaningful path for school improvement in the years to come.

Our profound thanks goes to all the faculty/staff, students, parents, and board members who worked in support of this valuable and extremely important process!

We especially thank the four members of our accreditation visiting team - Mr. Mark Sugimoto, Head of School at Hanalani Schools, Ms. JoAnn Stepien, Assistant Dean, Lower School (Ret.) at `Iolani School, Mr. George Evensen, Principal at Our Savior Lutheran School, and Ms. Amy Vorderbruegge, Principal at Hawaii Baptist Elementary School. We greatly appreciate the time and talent they graciously donated to our school!

I would like to conclude on an unrelated note by wishing you all a safe and enjoyable Spring Break and inviting those of you without a church home to join us on Easter Sunday to celebrate our risen Savior!

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**Easter Services**

**Sunday, March 27**

You are invited to join us for Easter Service on Sunday, March 27.

- **Easter Sunrise Service** - 7:00 a.m. at HPU Windward Campus
- **Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt** - 8:15 a.m. at Saint Mark Church
- **Easter Service** - 10:00 a.m. at Saint Mark Church
Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

**Kindergarten:** February and March were filled with lots of exciting things in kindergarten! Chinese New Year was celebrated with a lion dance and a yummy Chinese lunch. Kindergarteners learned how to jump rope and Zumba during our “Get Active” event. And to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday, the kindergarteners tried green eggs and spam, read *The Lorax*, and learned about taking care of our planet. In the classroom, the kindergarteners watched in amazement as caterpillars changed into chrysalises and hatched into beautiful Monarch butterflies. What a wonderful way to to compare the hatching of our butterflies with the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

**First Grade:** The first graders have been busy reading and learning about what the president of the United States does and a little bit about Washington and Lincoln’s life. They used what they learned to creatively write about what they would do as our next president. They also discussed ways to keep their heart healthy this month and had four weeks of Zumba classes prior to our annual “Get Active” event and potluck with the whole school. The students celebrated Valentine’s Day with centers including art, math, STEM, and a healthy snack. They worked hard to prepare and present an oral book report with a container representing their book, which also served as their valentine container. In March, we celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss by reading many of his books, especially *The Lorax* and made green eggs, spam and rice with our kindergarten friends. We enjoyed our 3rd Open Market of the year and are having a blast during Spirit Week. We have worked hard this quarter and look forward to Spring Break!

**Second Grade:** What a busy month the second graders had! The students learned how to write a proper “compare and contrast” paper and culminated their final writing piece by comparing and contrasting the new 2016 Tesla Model X with a car that they own at home. The students had to analyze the various features on the cars, create a graphic organizer and write a final paper on it. The students also used the information that they had received to create and design their own “concept car” blueprint. The second graders are also learning about telling time and creating different types of graphs. In Bible, the students are learning about the miracles of Jesus and just completed a reflection piece on the armor of God. They are also learning about important American symbols in social studies and have each researched their own American President. Last but not least, the second graders went on a field trip to the University of Hawaii to complete a course about DNA. They were very excited to be in a real college laboratory!

**Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade**

**Third Grade:** The 3rd graders have been busy learning division this quarter. We are using our multiplication facts and skip counting to learn how to divide and find the remainders. We have learned almost all of our cursive letters so we have been writing a lot more during class in cursive. In science we are learning about classifying animals and how to divide them into groups. In reading we are holding group discussions about books and sharing our feelings, thoughts, and art skills with a buddy in order to strengthen our comprehension skills when reading.

**Fourth Grade:** The 4th graders have been learning about the different species we have here in Hawaii and how special our island ecosystem is. Each student focused on an animal we have in Hawaii and did research. They collected lots of facts and used their knowledge to complete a power point, write an essay, create a visual project, and compose a riddle. We also had a special guest from the Invasive Species Committee that taught us more about Little Fire Ants and how harmful they are to our islands. The 4th graders are on their way to becoming invasive species experts as we continue to learn more about these disruptive animals.

**Classroom News - Fifth Grade**

**Fifth Grade:** Lots of great things have been happening in the 5th grade. We have had a good time comparing what is happening in our classroom to what is occurring around the United States. As the race for finding the Republican and Democratic representative for the Oval Office election is heating up, so is the election that we are having in the classroom. Each student has chosen an icon, a fictional or non-fictional character that they look up to, and every day we have a different style of voting to vote someone out. This has been an interesting and exciting activity for the students. Not only are they learning different styles of voting, but they are also learning strategies with voting that are applicable to our present day situation with our presidential race.

In science we are putting a lot of focus on learning and understanding the solar system. Between projects, activities, videos and hard work, we are getting a deeper understanding of what is going on beyond our planet. We have also begun persuasive essays that will eventually integrate into official debates.
Mrs. Souki’s News:
The Lenten and Easter season is the focus of Bible during this time. The students will be working on a daily devotion set up in Google Classroom. On Fat Tuesday we celebrated with malasadas with our chapel buddies. The students are also working on presentations about a service project that the entire middle school will participate in at the end of the year.

In grade 6 and 7 English the students just finished their class novel Wonder by R.J. Palacio. This book helps the students to understand what it might be like for someone with a disability and can help create empathy and understanding for others. We continue our work with Wordly Wise and Shurley Grammar.

Grade 6 world history completed their study of Ancient China and the Empires of China just a couple of weeks ago. The students participated in a Chinese New Year celebration that included a lion dance, trivia from a panda, crafts, experiments, and a reflection of the historical accuracy of the Disney movie Mulan. The students got a chance to participate in an integrated unit that allowed them to focus on healthy lifestyle choices with a concentration on healthy food. We learned about the adverse effects of added sugar, came up with recipes for their own healthy snacks, calculated the nutritional values, and shared a cooking demonstration with the kindergarten and 1st grade students.

Grade 7 geography has been studying Asia this quarter. The students finished their study of China, Japan, South East Asia, and India. The students also participated in an integrated unit that allowed them to focus on healthy lifestyle choices with a concentration on muscles and exercise. We produced a collaborative exercise video.

Grade 8 U.S. history completed their study of World War I and the Great Depression. The students wrote a letter to President Hoover or President Roosevelt providing suggestions on how the Great Depression should be handled. We are currently studying the connections between WWI and WWII. We will start the 4th quarter with a study of the holocaust and a class novel Number the Stars by Lois Lowry.

Mrs. Schroppel’s News:
Grade 7 Bible is taking a closer look at Christian worship and how the focus of our worship and our lives is the cross of Christ, the means by which we are forgiven.

Grade 8 English students have done a lot of writing this quarter: a Mulan reflection for Chinese New Year; a research paper on a topic of choice relating to our class novel, Shabanu; and a persuasive speech that was presented to the administration with proposals for healthy initiatives that came out of our Get Active unit.

Mrs. Pelletier’s News:
In Grade 6 Bible, we are studying Holy Week and the events surrounding it. This is so fitting because we are in the church season of Lent right now! In grade 6 science, we are looking at the geologic time scale and comparing the textbook’s proposed timeline to the creation story in the Bible. Our next chapter will focus on energy resources.

In grade 7 science, we are studying the respiratory and excretory systems.

In grade 8 science, we are finishing a chapter on forces and Newton’s laws of motion. Our next chapter will focus on energy.

In grade 7 math, we are studying geometry – lines, angles, triangles, polygons, and circles.

In grade 8 Algebra, we are studying the properties of exponents, geometric sequences, and exponential functions.

Miss Morris’ News:
Congratulations to Sara Cruz, Keanu Duarte, Cole Pruett, Matthew Tanji, and Peyton Rapoza for beating their best mile time in February! This quarter middle school has been playing soccer and trying out some Zumba during our PE classes. Keep up the good work!

Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!

Check out the SMLS 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

On February 27, the PTC held its Annual Rummage Sale, which generated approximately $1,200 in funds that will be used to support the PTC’s mission of improving and enhancing the learning environment for the students of Saint Mark! Thank you to everyone who donated their items, time, and assistance to help make this event a great success! A special MAHALO goes out to our Rummage Sale Chair, Denise Warrington, for planning and organizing this event.

In addition to granting funding to purchase various student games and class equipment for the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Grades, including the purchase of a Meccano MeccaNoid Robot available for use by the entire student body, the PTC, in partnership with the Saint Mark Administration, is finalizing the purchase of 2 industrial-sized fans for the school gymnasium. We plan to have these fans installed before this year’s May Day Program!

This & That

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a success! We sold $3,297 worth of books and supplies. Profits go toward books for the library and teachers, and Scholastic Magazine subscriptions for the students. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped and to the generous parents who purchased “wish list” books.

Chapel offerings for February and March will be going to the American Heart Association. We have raised over $230 thus far. We appreciate your generosity!

Our “Get Active” campaign raised $4,104 which will go towards new P.E. and playground equipment. Congratulations to our top money raisers who were Jacob Gaudi (grade five), Noah Gaudi (grade seven), and Kahiau Lapinad (grade two).

We are completing re-enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year. Please be sure your paperwork has been turned in to the school office. We have applicants for all grades and need to know what space is available. Paperwork was due on February 20th.

Congratulations to Sirena Linton (grade 8) for qualifying to compete in the state level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Friday, April 1, 2016. Go Sirena!

The varsity basketball season is over. The girls played hard and learned a lot of skills during the season. The boys made it all the way to the championship game but fell a bit short to a powerful Pearl Harbor team. Thanks to Coach Bruce and Coach Curtis for all their time and hard work.

Congratulations to our all-stars Mariah Basques and Abi Hilpert (for the girls) and Kahokulani Catrett, Noah Gaudi and Harvey Welch (for the boys). The MVP’s awards went to Mariah Basques & Noah Gaudi!

The anxiously awaited JV basketball season will start when we return from Spring Break. Both the boys and girls are eager to get started with the first games scheduled to start in mid-April.

Lent is a time of solemn remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of the world. The ´ohana of Saint Mark Lutheran Church invites you to join us for these Lenten services.

Each Wednesday Lenten service will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a Soup Supper followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.

For more information please contact the church office at 247-4565.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

Athletics

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