A Message from the Principal

As was first announced in December, Saint Mark Lutheran School is thrilled to have received $100,000 in grants! We received one $50,000 gift from the Harold K. L. Castle Foundation and another $50,000 gift from the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation.

The grants are to be used primarily for renovation of the school grounds (classrooms, library, etc.); however, some of the money will also be used for technology upgrades.

Additionally, the Harold K. L. Castle Foundation has pledged to give us another $25,000 in matching funds. The stipulation being that they will only match contributions/donations received from alumni and their extended families. Therefore, Saint Mark Lutheran School will be making a push to collect donations from alumni and their extended families with the hope of raising another $50,000 by the end of this June ($25,000 coming from alumni and $25,000 coming from the Harold K. L. Castle Foundation).

This is truly an exciting opportunity for Saint Mark School to generate some additional revenue while establishing a relationship with our alumni base. We kindly ask that you support our efforts in this very important endeavor.

We greatly appreciate the immense generosity of both foundations and especially thank Terrance R. George, the Vice President and Executive Director of the Harold K. L. Castle Foundation, and Alfred L. Castle, the Executive Director of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation.

Get Active & Support SMLS

Saint Mark is again participating in "Get Active" - a push to get students moving and physically active. The students are being asked to promote physical activity and collect donations in support of Saint Mark athletics.

Monies collected will go towards the purchase of new P.E. equipment, recess balls, athletic equipment and travel, etc.

Our "Get Active" hour will be on Wednesday, February 15 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by the annual all-school potluck lunch. We are asking that each family provide one small food dish that will feed 4-5 students.

Sponsor pledge forms and monies are due by Monday, February 6.
Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: We wrote New Year resolutions, made several snowy, winter pictures and talked about frost and snow. We also talked about Martin Luther King, Jr. and how everyone should be treated with respect. We celebrated the 100th day of school. Then we celebrated Chinese New Year in Chinatown and took our dragon around our campus. We are learning how to jump rope (it’s not so hard), and are enjoying Wheel Week – so many wheels in the parking lot going round and round. We’re also studying life on the coral reef and we’re making a big prayer book.

First Grade: January is a month full of learning new things in the first grade class. We had a wonderful time learning more about the Chinese culture while visiting Chinatown with our families. We enjoyed charms, unusual fruits and vegetables, medicinal herbs, and delicious Chinese food. We began a new unit of study focused around the beautiful clouds that fill the Hawaiian sky. We’ve learned that cumulus clouds grow when the air inside the cloud is warmer than the air around it. We’ve also discovered that cumulus congestus clouds can produce rain. We thoroughly enjoyed our 100th day of school when we celebrated all we’ve accomplished in the first one hundred days of school. We enjoyed a special “100th Day” breakfast, counting games and activities.

Second Grade: The second grade students returned to school bursting with great stories about the wonderful things they did during their winter break. They are excited to be learning multiplication and learning about plants and animals in science. The students will be doing a book report on an animal and will learn how to create a short power point presentation. We went on a field trip to Chinatown to explore the different sights, do a little shopping, and eat some Chinese food. We also celebrated the 100th day of school. The students decorated a t-shirt with 100 items, made 100 day booklets, and participated in many activities. It was a fun-filled day.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: It is hard to believe that we are already coming to the end of January. The third grade has been working hard in all academic areas. We have just finished a chapter on multiplication and will be starting division. We have some exciting events coming up in our classroom. Early in February we will be taking a field trip to do the Makapu’u Lighthouse hike for some whale watching. While we are there, one of our parents, Mrs. Duncan, will be doing an art lesson for us. We are really excited about that. The students will also be doing written and oral reports on a President of the United States just before the Presidents’ Birthday holiday. We will be reading several books written by children’s author Patricia Polacco and doing some writing to compare and contrast the books we have read. We are beginning to talk in class about our 2nd Annual Wax Museum which has been scheduled for May 17. This is a big event for the third grade students and they really enjoy it. We will also be starting our preparation for May Day soon.

Fourth Grade: It was so wonderful returning to school and hearing all about the fourth graders’ winter break. They had fun being descriptive about their Christmas and New Year’s Eve celebrations in their writing. Now that we have started a new year, the students are buzzing with conversation about our annual fourth grade Big Island trip. Even though it is five months away, the students can’t stop asking questions about our trip. Thank you again to all the parents that volunteered to chaperone the trip.

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: During the last week of school before break the fifth grade had a wonderful Christmas party that was organized completely by themselves. They formed groups that decorated our room, brought in Christmas music, planned Christmas activities and games, and provided everyone with lots of food to enjoy. In addition, the students had previously selected another student’s name in our class and exchanged their Secret Santa gifts with one another. It certainly was a great beginning to our Christmas holiday season.
Mrs. Hantel’s News:
Students in both sixth grade math and seventh pre-algebra are exploring fractions and its application to real life. Sixth grade will be soon working with fractions in the kitchen as they experiment with cooking! In seventh grade pre-algebra students are taking basic fraction skills and applying them to algebraic equations. Eighth grade algebra students are spending a lot of time learning how to apply linear functions.

Seventh and eighth grade social studies students are currently working on the research and writing process. Seventh graders have finished researching their various countries and are currently transforming that research into writing. Eighth graders are beginning the research process. They are researching different controversial times in American history. Their goal is to decide whether the United States took proper action during that event.

The seventh grade Bible students are continuing their journey through the life of Christ. They are almost finished discovering His teachings through parables and miracles. Soon they will examine the Lord’s prayer and what it means for their lives.

Miss Maddick’s News:
New Year, new novels! Sixth grade is reading Tuck Everlasting, seventh grade is reading Nothing But the Truth, and eighth grade is reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. Each novel reaches out to the readers and takes them on a journey. The main characters learn valuable life lessons about who they are and what their responsibilities are in their families and communities.

Seventh and eighth grade Communications classes are focusing on persuasion this quarter. We will strive to make our audiences see our opinions clearly even if they do not agree.

The Sixth grade social studies class will be looking at regional civilizations worldwide before exploration became a major goal. They will also be looking at the spread of Islam and its interaction with Christianity.

In eighth grade Bible students are looking at witnessing as communication. We are so blessed to be confident in our faith and salvation; we want to share the Gospel with others.

Mrs. McGregor’s News:
In sixth grade Bible, students studied the book of First Kings and figured out which kings earned a good and honorable name. The students loved the stories of Elijah and his faith in God. The Lord - He is God!

Students in sixth grade science have studied soil samples, discussed how soil forms and the affects of erosion. The sixth graders learned about George Washington Carver and his soil conservation methods and his 300 innovative uses of peanuts. Our class made our own peanut butter and will hopefully harvest peanuts in April.

In science, seventh graders have studied Gregor Mendel and his experimentation with pea plants. Students completed a lab with the purpose of modeling the combinations of alleles in a genetic cross. The emphasis of the unit was a passage found in Psalm 139: “For I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Students in eighth grade science have impressed the teacher with their ability to balance chemical equations. The students completed a lab to determine how temperature affects the action of the enzyme catalase. Always inquiring!

Congratulations to all the Jr. High students for their completion of their science fair projects. A job well done! Mahalo to the following judges for taking their time to evaluate students’ understanding of the scientific method: Mr. David Gaudi, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Kekaulike, Dr. Lerner, Dr. Wolcott, Dr. Jao, Dr. Hepton, Dr. Tanner, Mr. Lee, and Mrs. Kong.

Junior High Awards

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<tr>
<th>Principal’s List</th>
<th>Honor Roll</th>
<th>Citizenship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPA 3.75—4.0</td>
<td>(GPA 3.0—3.75)</td>
<td>Alexis Chang-Takayama</td>
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<td>Sage Iona</td>
<td>Kaimana Cameron</td>
<td>Sage Iona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhys Kalama</td>
<td>Alexis Chang-Takayama</td>
<td>Kathryn Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melia Manu</td>
<td>Kathryn Johnson</td>
<td>Kala Kahapea-Aquino</td>
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<td>Tristan Scharfenstein-Montgomery</td>
<td>Kanae Ratledge</td>
<td>Melia Manu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kahiau Souza</td>
<td>Makoa Sanchez</td>
<td>Tristan Scharfenstein-Montgomery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Taniguchi</td>
<td>Mikayla Aki</td>
<td>Kahiau Souza</td>
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<td>Auahi Aiu</td>
<td>Kainani Bradley</td>
<td>Justin Taniguchi</td>
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<td>Adrianne Bonham</td>
<td>Aimee Clark</td>
<td>Auahi Aiu</td>
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<td>Kiki Lo</td>
<td>Isaiah Graham</td>
<td>Adrianne Bonham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martine Marantz</td>
<td>Allison Munoz</td>
<td>Kainani Bradley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risa McGregor</td>
<td>David Murray</td>
<td>Amiee Clark</td>
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<td>Jayson Wong</td>
<td>Lauryn Ohai</td>
<td>Risa McGregor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Howland</td>
<td>Jackson Wadsworth</td>
<td>Martine Marantz</td>
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<td>Madison Lee</td>
<td>Danielle Won</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kailani Linton</td>
<td>Alex Lauro</td>
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<td>Haley Pilien</td>
<td>Desmond Mello</td>
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</tbody>
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Awards (cont.)

Allison Munoz  
Lauryn Ohai  
Kaimi Won  
Jayson Wong  
Megan Howland  
Alex Lauro  
Madison Lee  
Kailani Linton  
Nicole Pang  
Haley Pilien  
Daesha Wilson

Keep up the Great Work!!

Athletics

The varsity basketball season has started! Both the boys and girls participated in a 20/20 tournament and played their first regular season game last week.

Next up is Saint Mark at Trinity Lutheran on Thursday, January 26. Come on out and cheer our athletes on and check out our spiffy brand new uniforms!

Reminder - No School

Please remember that there will be no school on Thursday, February 2 and Friday, February 3. The faculty will be busy attending the annual Lutheran Educators’ Conferences.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the Rummage Sale!

Please join us at the next PTC meeting on

Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m.

This & That

The Saint Mark Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) is sponsoring their Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, February 18 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please make plans to support the sale with both donations and purchases.

Friday, February 10 is Family Night at the Ice Palace! Everyone is welcome to join us for skating, fellowship, and fun. Special discount rate of $7.75 for all skaters. Come and join the Saint Mark ohana. Skate from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. or later. A special reservation form will be sent home.

With your help we received $405 from Box Tops for Education! A big mahalo goes to Mrs. Olson and Mrs. Cameline for their continued work organizing this fundraiser and to all of you who have collected and continue to collect those small little box tops. We continue to collect them all year-round. Thank you!

December chapel offerings went towards making Christmas merrier through the Salvation Army and Family Promise programs. We raised $380 in cash and lots of wonderful Christmas packages.

The response to our February chapel offerings has been wonderful! We’ve already collected over $300 for Pennies for Patients!

Remember to check our school website, Facebook Page, and teacher websites. The student photos are changed frequently and we’d hate for you to miss seeing your cute kids!

Spelling Bee Finalists

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