A Message from the Principal

Be happy… while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. (Ecclesiastes 11:9)

I have noticed an infectious energy on campus this year. It is a wonderfully invigorating and cheerful phenomenon that I’ve perceived while observing the children both at work and at play. It is almost palatable!

At first, I wasn’t exactly sure what it was that I was observing. But after nearly three months, I believe that I have put my finger on what it is. In one word, I would summarize what I have seen as "joy". Merriam-Webster defines joy as a state of happiness; a source or cause of delight, and I am thrilled to report that I see joy in the eyes, words, and actions of our students. Of course, some days are better than others for our children. In fact, some mornings I see children who would prefer to not even get out of their car. However, by the time the school gathers together for morning flag, we usually notice that a joyful smile has begun to overpower, if not completely replace, any trepidation or displeasure that was present when they arrived.

The Bible mentions joy (or some version of joy) over 200 times and tells us to be joyful always. So, while I certainly realize that not every aspect of a rigorous school day is joyful, it is nevertheless our goal to create a learning environment that is safe, healthy and enJOYable!

We respectfully request your help in doing just that. I invite you to talk your child(ren)’s teacher(s) and/or me any time you have a question, comment or concern regarding your child’s well-being and happiness.

For we all want our children to “Be happy…while…young…”

All are Invited to the K-3 Concert

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Sunday, October 25 at 5:00 p.m. Potluck to follow. Please bring a main dish and salad, dessert, or side dish.
Kindergartners were happy to be back at school after intersession. (Parents were even happier, at least Mrs. G thinks so.) They're looking forward to Halloween and are busy with lots of projects and songs about this event. They're also busy with “Shapes Week,” teen numerals, and “Thankfulness” activities as well as the regular curriculum. Firefighters from Kaneohe’s #17 station brought 2 big trucks and their captain’s car and gave a demonstration to the kindergartners and first graders during Fire Prevention Month. Sarai’s dad is the captain, and Sophie’s dad is one of the leaders. Mahalo for coming and reminding us of important fire safety tips.

First Graders have been working hard on writing their first complete paragraph. The final drafts have been hung on the classroom walls, so come by and admire the student’s hard work! We’ve also been learning about Leonardo da Vinci this month. We learned that Leonardo liked to take things apart and make diagrams of all the parts. We’ve had fun taking some items in our classroom apart and making our own diagrams. To culminate our study of da Vinci, we’ll take a DVD player apart and diagram it’s inner workings. Finally, we’re all looking forward to the Pumpkin Party that will be held at the end of the month. Our first class party of the year will be full of fun pumpkin inspired activities.

Fall is here! The Second Grade students will be celebrating the fall season by playing fun games, making delicious caramel apples, and dressing up for the K-2 costume parade. The students have been busy learning about the seven continents, adding and subtracting two digit numbers, learning about Moses, writing interesting pumpkin stories, and reading A LOT. Book-It has started this month and the students are trying to reach their goal to earn a Pizza Hut coupon.

Third Grade has been busy. We are practicing for our Fall Concert, to be held on October 25 at 5 p.m. You will be impressed with both their singing and the artwork they created for the program. Our class will have a Fall Festival on October 30. We will not be dressing up, but will have a great time in the afternoon with some math stations, and other holiday activities. We are also busy working on a picture book that we will publish. The title is Keiki, Keiki, What Do You See? Over the fall break the students did research about places and things that you would see on Oahu. They will be creating a book with pictures, rhyme and facts. Some pictures were taken by the students and their families. Thanks to all of our families for being so supportive and encouraging about the project. A big congratulations to Sydney, Noah, Joshua, Sienna, Bruce, Jacob, Sophie, and Kaleimakali for passing their A.R. goals for the quarter. They belong to the “I’m An A.R. Star Club” and enjoyed a lunch from Taco Bell or McDonald’s for their accomplishments.

Fourth Graders were back with beautiful smiles as they walked through the door on the first day back from Fall Break. They were definitely missed. They hit the ground running on their first day back. They explored the religion of the ancient Hawaiian people. The students were amazed to learn that the Hawaiian people worshiped many gods, and that each god had it's own purpose. The boys were very fascinated with the war god Ku. The students are excited about our visit to the largest and most famous pu’uhonua (a place of peace or refuge) in Honaunau on our Big Island trip. It feels very rewarding to connect what they are learning from a textbook to a real life experience. The fourth graders created their own rain in a fun science lab involving a small scale simulated mud slide. Students predicted how the rain might shape our land. While the students were busy spraying down their hills, a few photos were snapped. Their faces show that they were enjoying this lab way too much. Fourth graders know how to make science fun!

Fifth Grade continued their study of Colonial America. Our class enjoyed making real butter from heavy cream and then eating it with some bread. Many students said that it was the best tasting butter that they had ever had and thought that it would be great to live during that time. But when they learned about the way Puritan children were expected to behave, they quickly changed their minds. Having to bow before their parents when they wanted to talk to them or having to do everything parents told them to do without any complaining caused fifth graders to be glad that they weren’t living back then.
Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel’s News:
The sixth grade Bible class is continuing their journey through the Old Testament and finally reached the promised land with Joshua and the rest of the Israelites. They are eagerly awaiting their encounters with Ruth, King David, Elijah and Elisha.

The junior high science students are getting ready to encounter various controversial scientific topics including genetics and evolution. They are anxious to learn about these different topics and contemplate them with a Christian perspective.

The junior high math students are expanding their understanding of solving equations with variables. They have also spent some time learning different ways of dissecting word problems and applying math to daily life.

Miss Maddick’s News:
A new quarter comes with new challenges and adventures. Junior high English students are beginning with a unit on newspaper articles.

We are identifying the five W’s, studying the format of an article, and challenging ourselves with word count requirements just like a real newspaper. Eighth grade is preparing projects on The Odyssey, seventh grade is beginning their adventure with Robin Hood, and the sixth grade will begin the classic, A Christmas Carol.

Seventh grade Bible class is examining prayer through the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer. We are having lively class conversations on the important and related concepts brought to light by these prayers and their explanations. In eighth grade Bible, we are looking at the authority of scripture and its usefulness to fuel our faith life.

In world history, they have wrapped up a unit about India and its major religions, and moved on to ancient Chinese history. Miss Maddick is very excited about this chapter because she student taught in Shanghai. She really enjoyed sharing some of her China pictures to add a little bit personal connections to the chapter’s information.

Mr. Annis’ News:
Seventh grade math students are learning divisibility rules, factors, and multipliers, and are using both fractions and decimals.

Seventh grade math is studying all operations of fractions and decimals and parts of a circle.

Eighth grade math students have finished learning the metric system and solving equations with decimals. They are now ready to start prime factorization, and multiplying & dividing exponents.

Seventh grade social studies are making maps of Latin America while learning about its geography, history, culture and politics.

Eighth grade social study students have just finished studying the end of the American Revolution and the establishment of our government, including the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Drama classes are reading and studying parts for the Christmas plays they will present to the student body.

The eighth graders will be keeping busy with co-curricular activities. Besides visiting Lutheran High School to see and experience the school, they will be going to Camp Erdman for three days to enjoy the great outdoors, learn leadership skills, team building and have some fun.

Mr. Johnson’s News:
The junior high students are showing great enthusiasm for P.E. My father, from the mainland, visited the P.E. classes and taught the students a new game called, “Ninja.” It’s a strategic game that gets the whole body moving! This next quarter we’ll be playing football, basketball & the students’ favorite - dodgeball. Again, please make sure your son/daughter is bringing their P.E. uniform to class!

The weekly chapels have been going really well! Mrs. Hinton’s third grade class just led chapel and reminded us to listen to God’s still, small voice. Sometimes we get caught up in our crazy schedules that we tend to forget to stop and listen to God’s voice. We have a loving and amazing Father who is always with us!

Junior High Awards

**Principal’s Award**
(GPA 3.75 - 4.0)
- Gaby Aihara
- Deidra Iseri-Pama
- Kailani Linton
- Spencer Oda
- Jaron Pagaduan
- Halsey Pilien
- Sunshine David
- Jason Lau
- Anastasiya Melnyk
- Jonathan Pond
- Tani Buckley
- Kaimi Chang

**Honor Roll**
(GPA 3.0 - 3.74)
- Casey Takahashi
- Zachery Thomas
- Korinn Trinies
- Kael Olowofoyeku
- Craig Shaner
- Dominic Sousa
- Daesha Wilson
- Chaisey Abrams
- Tiana Buckley
- Chayse Conceicao

- Deja Lee
- Samson Low
- Shaian Smith
- Daniel Traylor
- Aaron Wilford
- Nicky Aihara
- James Chaffin
- Jason Flores
- Heidi Jacobs
- Lanson Kupau
- Maraea Mussell
- Duke Quitevis
- Hana Rupnow
- Keana Russell
- Noah Schuetz
- Rodney Williams

**Citizenship Award**
- Gaby Aihara
- Allisa Cormack
- Keohokapu
- Pomai Darlington
- Deidra Iseri-Pama
- Kailani Linton
- Jaron Pagaduan
- Halsey Pilien

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Awards (cont.)

Craig Shaner
Dominic Sousa
Sunshine David
Aulama Jiannino
Jason Lau
Anastasiya Melnyk

Jonathan Pond
Tani Buckley
Kaimi Chang
Jannah-Jane
Crisostomo
Heidi Jacobs
Leila Latorre
Taylor Mossman
Maraea Mussell
Duke Quitevis
Casey Takahashi
Zachery Thomas
Korinn Trinies

Athletics

Junior varsity volleyball has begun with 19 excited, enthusiastic players! Our first game is here at Saint Mark on Thursday, October 22 against Hanalani. We are looking forward to a great season with Coach Kim.

Go Warriors !!

Cross country practice has also begun. Coach Peter Johnson held his first practice with twice as many students coming out to run as we have had in several years. They, too, are excited and will be practicing every Tuesday and Friday after school. Their meet is on Tuesday, November 10 after school at Kakaako Waterfront Park.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

The PTC encourages everyone to continue collecting Box Tops & Labels for Education. Please join us at the next PTC meeting on Tuesday, November 23 at 3:00 p.m.

This & That

Work Day is on Saturday!

Please Join us for the Fall 2009
Saint Mark Family Work Day!

Date: Saturday, October 24
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Where: Saint Mark Lutheran
Church & School
Who: Faculty, Staff, Church
Members, School Families

Everyone is welcome, but all stu-
dents must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring your tool
belt, gardening tools, painting
supplies, and/or cleaning sup-
plies. There will be something for
everyone, and lunch will be pro-
vided. It should be a productive
and fun filled day with fellowship
and community service. Please
call Mrs. Lee or Mrs. Lawrence in
the school office at 247-5589 or
Mrs. Nelson in the church office at
247-4565 if you have any ques-
tions or want to RSVP.

A big thanks to all
of our Saint Mark
families for being so
generous with
Chapel Donations.
In August we
raised $297 for
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
School Missions. In
September a total of
$336 was raised
for the Family
Promise program. The current
chapel offerings are going to Pen-
nies for Patients which provides
help to those suffering from leu-
kemia.

We are still collecting Box tops
and Labels for Education. The
class that collects the most labels
will win a ice cream party. The
deadline for handing in labels for
the month of October is Wednes-
day, October 28.

Teachers will be attending
the annual Lutheran Teachers’
Conference on November 5 & 6. There will be no
school on those days.

Grades 4-6 will sing in
church at the 11:00 a.m. ser-
vice on Sunday, November 1.
Grades K-3 will sing at the
8:30 a.m. service on Sunday,
November 15.

All are invited to the church lu’au
on Sunday, November 8 from
4:00 - 7:00 p.m. The lu’au is to wel-
come Pastor Hilpert and to thank
Pastor Wichner.