A Message from the Principal

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 four new educators to the Saint Mark ohana this year - Ms. Katie Gerling (grade 3), Mrs. Kristy Schroppel (grades 6-8), Mrs. Lorine Pelletier (grades 6-8), and Ms. Courtney Gibo (grade 1 educational assistant and aftercare). Please join me in extending them a warm aloha as they join our family.

The complete 2013-2014 Saint Mark faculty and staff are listed as follows:

- Kindergarten - Mrs. Gundermann
  Grade 1 - Mrs. Venegas
  Grade 2 - Mrs. Gonzalez
  Grade 3 - Ms. Gerling
  Grade 4 - Ms. Camit
  Grade 5 - Mrs. Flores

- Middle School Science, Math & Bible - Mrs. Brooks
- Middle School English, Math & Bible - Mrs. Schroppel
- Middle School Social Studies, English & Bible - Mrs. Pelletier
- Middle School P.E. & Director of Christian Education - Miss 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, 5 & 6 Choir - Mr. Bauchle
- 3 & 4 Choir - Mrs. Pescht
- K-2 Choir - Mrs. Gundermann
- Kindergarten Educational Assistant & Before Care Worker - Mrs. Akaka
- Grade 1 Educational Assistant & After Care Worker - Ms. Courtney Gibo
- Library, Grade 3 & 4 Educational Assistant & After Care Worker - Mrs. Manu
- After Care - Mrs. Gibo, Mrs. Manu & Ms. Courtney Gibo
- Administrative Assistant/Admissions Coordinator - Mrs. Lee
- Business Manager - Mrs. Lawrence

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!

A Few Days Left for Fundraiser

We are nearly halfway through our iDcard Fundraiser where students are being asked to sell at least five iDcards by next Wednesday, August 28. The iDcard is an annual membership to an exclusive network of savings at your favorite restaurants, retailers, and attractions. The iDcard can be used over and over again unlike coupons or online group discounts. Big City Diner, Papa John's, Teddy's Bigger Burgers, Aloha Crepes, iHop, Ryan's Bar & Grill, Young Laundry & Dry Cleaning, Cinnamon's Restaurant, Round Table Pizza, The Shack - Kailua, Maui Tacos, Taco Del Mar, and Islands are just a few of the 100’s of merchants accepting the iDcard. Please call the school office at 247-5589 if you have any questions or are interested in purchasing an iDard.
**Kindergarten:** Twenty-six kindergartners are quickly making new friends, learning routines, and "digging" in to exciting kindergarten work. There are lots of reading and math activities, swimming every week, and making "surprises" for Grandparents' Day. We are having a daily alphabet letter: learning how to make the letters correctly, learning a song and hearing a story for each letter. And most fun of all: having a food treat. Mrs. Gundermann is happily visiting everyone, seeing their rooms, yards, pets, and getting acquainted with everyone in the family.

**First Grade:** The first grade family has experienced lots of "firsts" this month. They completed their first Math Minute and Spelling Test. They each received their first bank to save money for their upcoming Open Market. They had their first lunch date with their seventh grade chapel buddies. They planted corn for the first time with their second grade friends. They are learning how each first grader is special and unique as individuals, and how they fit together to form the First Grade Family.

**Second Grade:** Ready, set, go! Second grade is off to a fantastic start! The second graders have been spending their first few weeks of the year building their classroom community and learning new routines and expectations. They are excited about all the new learning. They also had a chance to get down and dirty in the newly expanded first and second grade garden. They are looking forward to their first harvest of the year, this fall. The second graders were also excited to welcome two new friends to their second grade ohana.

**Third Grade:** Third graders have been busy getting routines started for the school year. They are doing a wonderful job of keeping their desks orderly and coming to school ready to learn. Several students have already gathered some Accelerated Reading points as we enjoy using the school iPads in the classroom. Cursive is underway as we begin to work on posture, pencil grips, and the slanting of our letters. In Religion, we are learning how to look up the books of the Bible, chapters, and verses. We are also working through the review section of math as we learn to organize our work problems on lined paper. As a whole, we have a super class and they are eager to learn!

**Fourth Grade:** The 4th grade class has been very busy! All the students are excited to focus on our Hawaiian Islands and its unique culture. We dove right in and have started learning about how the islands were created and what makes each of our main islands special. We will continue this study through the quarter and complete a project to show our learning.

**Fourth Grade:** We are all looking forward to a great year together!

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**Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade**

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**Classroom News - Fifth Grade**

**Fifth Grade:** What helps a student be successful? Fifth grade was asked this question on the first day of school and wrote down their ideas. They classified these into four categories that their classmates, their teacher, their family, and they would do to help them be successful this year. From these ideas, they selected the most popular ones and created a list of rules for the classroom which we called Our Plans for Success. They included doing our best, studying hard for tests, being nice to each other, staying on task, being positive, plus ten more. They are all excited about following these rules, so they can have a terrific year in fifth grade!
Mrs. Brooks News:
In middle school science, we are learning about the scientific method, how to develop a hypothesis and run an experiment. We have conducted some experiments in class to model valid methods. We have investigated how many drops of water fit on a penny. We are also working to determine if microwaving radish seeds causes an increase or decrease in germination rate. Our next challenge is to come up with an experiment of our own and perform it.

Eighth grade algebra students are reviewing types of numbers, graphing on a coordinate plane, and order of operations. We are also using variables to model relationships with equations and are determining function rules. Soon, we will be investigating rational numbers. We will begin by reviewing how to add, subtract, multiple, and divide positive and negative integers.

Seventh grade math students have reviewed estimation strategies and are working on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. We have completed some visual, hands-on activities that model decimal multiplication and division. We will continue to model math concepts when we learn about positive/negative integer addition and subtraction.

Sixth grade Bible students have tested their Bible knowledge with a fun Bible scavenger hunt (ask them about their trick question!). We are moving forward from the Old Testament knowledge from last year to the New Testament. We will begin with the four Gospels and compare/contrast each. Currently, we are learning about Jesus’ life through Matthew.

Mrs. Schroppel’s News:
The seventh grade homeroom is quickly becoming a comfortable place to be. The walls sport “Who am I” posters that introduce us to each student. And a popular feature for all middle schoolers is the SPPRAK (Special People Performing Random Acts of Kindness) board where kids can catch each other doing good. Our day begins with student led devotions, beautiful singing, and a study of the Life of Christ as presented in the gospel of John.

Seventh and eighth grade English students are relearning just how fun grammar can be when taught the Shurley method way! Our goal this year is to become excellent communicators in both our speech and writing. In this first quarter, both classes are reading science fiction novels where technology has been implemented to create utopian societies: seventh grade is enjoying The Giver, and the eighth graders are deep into Uglies.

In sixth grade math & seventh and eighth grade pre-algebra we are getting into the flow of things. Sixth grade is currently studying numbers, expressions, and equations, and pre-algebra is learning the language of algebra. The quarter 1 project will be coming soon!

Mrs. Pelletier’s News:
The school year started with the usual routine of learning student’s names, nailing down class schedules, and diving into the textbook materials that we will use.

Sixth grade social studies students are learning about ancient civilizations, especially the Fertile Crescent area.

In language arts they are reading the novel, Tuck Everlasting, an interesting look at a family that never grows any older. They are also expanding their vocabulary with Wordly Wise, their grammar with the Shurley Method, and their writing with journal entries. And don’t forget about the required outside reading using Accelerated Reader books!

The seventh graders are learning the tools of Geography so they can better understand the different world regions that will be covered later in the year.

In Bible the eighth graders have begun the study of salvation using their Dynamic Christian Living workbooks, journals, and memory work. And in social studies, we have dug into American History from the earliest humans in the Americas. Soon we will be comparing the different colonies that developed in North America.

We look forward to an exciting year with much spiritual, physical, social, and academic growth!

Miss Morris’ News: Welcome back! In PE we are starting off by working on our volleyball skills. We will be participating in Fitnessgram instead of the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Fitnessgram has many of the same activities, with the addition of measuring the student’s Body Mass Index and Aerobic Capacity, doing flexed arm hangs, and trunk lifts. Instead of being evaluated on a Presidential or National Level, each student will be placed in a zone - either Healthy Fitness Zone or Needs Improvement Zone. For more information on Fitnessgram please see Ms. Morris or visit: www.fitnessgram.net

Saint Mark Lutheran School is On-line!

Current Design

Coming Soon!!

Saint Mark Website
www.smls-hawaii.org

A completely redesigned Saint Mark website….Please be on the look out for it in early September!

New Design
Athletics

We have a new coach, Mr. Tony Kanoa, who is working well with our athletes. They have been perfecting skills and plays and running, as well as having fun. We are looking forward to a great year of sports as we participate in the Lutheran Schools Sports League (LSSL). The League offers JV volleyball (grade 5 & 6 boys and girls), varsity and JV basketball for both boys and girls, a cross country meet for grade 5-8 boys and girls, and a golf tournament. All scheduled games are listed on the school calendar on our website. If you have any questions, please call or email Mrs. Kong. Our first games were on Monday and both the boys and girls won their matches. We have more home games so come on out and cheer our athletes on.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

The PTC is busy at work planning the 4th Annual Benefit Gala...

The gala is scheduled for Saturday, November 9 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 financial aid program and to continue to enhance our computer technology. Thank you to the parents who have offered to serve on the PTC. It takes all of us working together to make Saint Mark the best it can be.

This & That

The iDcard fundraiser will run through Wednesday, August 28. Thank you for helping your keiki with this venture.

On September 9, Grades K-2 will visit Tenney Theatre for Honolulu Theatre for Youth’s production of “Korean Cinderella.”

Make plans to attend the Fall Family Night on Friday, September 13. It will be a fun-filled movie night!

Kindergartners will Celebrate Grandparents’ Day on Wednesday, September 18. We expect an overflowing crowd and the kindergartners will be proud to show off with songs, activities, and to introduce papa and tutu to their classmates and classroom.

Parents of students in grades K-2 be sure to circle September 29 on your calendars. At 5 p.m. the children will present “Magical Moments.” The children meet twice a week with Mrs. Gundermann for choir and are busily learning many songs for this fall’s concert.

Footballs, volleyballs, soccer balls, basketballs and the always popular bouncy balls, in a rainbow of colors were out on the playground and blacktop as our students enjoyed the new equipment. Thanks to all of you who supported Get Active last year, we now have balls, balls, and more balls for all the classes and the After Care program.

Saint Mark will once again be participating in Foodland’s Annual Give Aloha program! During the month of September customers are invited to make donations of up to $249 (per person, per organization) at checkout to Saint Mark Lutheran School. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation up to a total of $350,000 for all organizations combined. More details will be sent home in the near future.

We need everyone’s support to help make the 4th Annual Benefit Gala scheduled for Saturday, November 9, 2013 a huge success!

In mid-September, parents will begin receiving access to Saint Mark’s new administrative software system - GradeLink. The access will be gradually rolled out beginning with the middle school grades. Please call the school office with any questions.

2013-2014 Faculty and Staff at the Installation and Rededication Church Service on August 4