

Warrior News

Saint Mark Lutheran School extends the love and care of Jesus Christ to all people, while nurturing families and preparing students to integrate faith with life, through quality Christ-centered education.

**Saint Mark Lutheran School
Kaneohe, Hawaii**

November/December 2013

A Message from the Head of School



This December marks the culmination of another busy and exciting year at Saint Mark. From the integration of our new school website and Gradelink program to the addition of some new and talented faculty members, it has certainly been an eventful year. However, it has also been a year of loss as we unfortunately had to bid a sad farewell to a very beloved teacher - **Mrs. Michelle McGregor**. We pray that the joy & love of the Christ Child's birth

strengthens & comforts the McGregor ohana (**Kent, Risa, and Kea**) not only this Christmas season but throughout the year.

We also like to take the month of December to offer our thanks to the many people who worked so diligently in support of our very important annual Gala fundraiser. Thanks to the generous and dedicated hard work of the gala committee along with Event Coordinator, **Cissy Shaner**, we were able to recognize our very own **Mrs. JoAnn Gundermann** and **Mr. Frank Tanaka** while raising approximately \$30,000 for the school's financial aid program and technology improvements. While there are numerous people who helped make the gala the success it was, I want to particularly thank the gala committee and the PTC officers who worked so hard.

We thank President **Cheryl Chang** Vice President **Miki Henriques**, Secretary **Rachel Hilpert**, Treasurer **Mele Manu**, **Natasha Masuda**, **Robin Kaha`ulelio**, **Jennifer Seibold**, **Kauai Dias**, **Denise Warrington**, **Adele Kimura**, **Janet Medeiros**, **Kathleen Funk-Linton**, **Mel Lawrence**, **Dale Gibo**, **Mele Manu**, **Pam Kong**, **Leilani Lee**, and **Penny Rapoza** for their amazing work.

As we bid farewell to 2013, I wish our entire ohana well, thank you for your continued commitment to Saint Mark, and pray that you are able to slow down this Christmas season long enough to relax and enjoy the full splendor of our "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau`oli Makahiki hou!



Save Your Rummage

We are looking forward to another great PTC rummage sale on **Saturday, February 15, 2014**.

Please start saving items that can be donated to the sale. All of the money raised from these sales goes directly to the school!



Dates to Remember

December 15: K-2 Christmas Program at 5:00 p.m.

December 17: Grades 3-4 Choir and Beginning Band Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m.

December 19: Grades 5-8 Choir and Advanced Band Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m.

December 20: 2nd Quarter Ends 11:30 a.m. Dismissal with **No Aftercare**

December 23 - January 3: Winter Intersession

December 24: Christmas Eve Church Services 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Day Church Service at 9:30 a.m.

January 6: School Resumes

January 6: K-5 Report Cards go home with students

January 15-17: Optional Parent Teacher Conferences for Grades K-8

January 17: 11:30am Dismissal

January 19: Grades 3 & 4 sing at the 9:30 a.m. church service

January 20: MLK Jr. Day - No School

January 22: "Get Active" Kick-Off at 8:30 a.m.

February 6: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

February 7: Staff Professional Development Day - No School

February 15: PTC Rummage Sale at 9:00 a.m.

February 16: Grades K - 2 sing at the 9:30 a.m. church service

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: Along with reading, writing and math, the kindergartners are singing lots of Christmas songs and know their speaking parts for the Christmas program. There are many art projects for Christmas: Santa mobiles, Rudolph, shoe box stables with nativity scenes, and presents for parents. The children left carrots for St. Nick's horse. All received treats. No one "got coal". We'll have a posada for our Christmas party. We look forward to shopping for the needy with chapel partners, a trip to the "Bus Wash" in Honolulu, and viewing the decorations at Honolulu Hale.

First Grade: The first graders are learning about communities near and far. They also learned about the Wampanoag tribe of Native

Americans that met the Pilgrims on the first Thanksgiving. First and second graders shared a feast from our harvest garden and some

generous donations by parents. We especially

enjoyed hearing back from our 26 "Flat kids". We are busy traveling around the world to different countries while learning about the variety of traditions people have for celebrating Christmas. The first graders are also working hard rehearsing for their Christmas Concert by learning new songs and speaking parts. We know it will be a great event to celebrate Jesus...the reason for the season.



The K-2 students had a blast in the 2nd annual turkey trot

Second Grade: The holidays are in full swing in second grade! During Thanksgiving, the second grade Pilgrims enjoyed a garden feast with their first grade, Native American friends. Students harvested corn,

beans, and eggplant from the garden, and are excitedly watching the pumpkin seeds they planted during the first weeks of school, grow and baby pumpkins begin to appear! During these last few weeks of December, they will be decorating gingerbread houses, performing in a Christmas Program, comparing various gingerbread man stories, learning about different states as they participate in a gingerbread man exchange with schools on the mainland, and most importantly, celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!



Mrs. Gonzalez and Mrs. Venegas get into the Halloween Spirit

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: December is a fun time for third grade. We started off jumping into multiplication and finishing up a unit on graphs. In language arts, we are busy writing captivating paragraphs and learning how to edit them. By the end of the quarter, we will have learned all of our lower and uppercase cursive letters. Currently a science experiment is in the observation stage as we keep making predictions on what is happening. In art this month we will be creating a special painting for Christmas.

Fourth Grade: The fourth grade class has had a busy month! First,

they are working on a research project on the plants and animals we

have here in Hawai'i. Each student did research on a plant or animal and are now busy creating a PowerPoint to showcase all the facts they

learned. Second, we went on an amazing learning trip to Hanauma Bay. The students learned more about the sea creatures we have in our ocean and got to see them up close and personal when we went

snorkeling. Third, we got to go on another learning trip to Bishop Museum.

We experienced three presentations showing how the first settlers to Hawai'i used the stars to get here. We also learned the life stages of a volcanic island, and the different materials Hawaiians used to make the things they needed to live and survive. I'm sure their fourth grade brains are now jam-packed with all the knowledge they gained this month!



The grade 4 students gathered for a group picture outside Bishop Museum

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: Fifth grade has been learning what life was like during the colonial days. They have studied the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. We visited Honolulu Museum of Art and dressed-up in colonial outfits, carded wool, did weaving on a loom, and went inside a reconstructed colonial house. It was a wonderful and educational experience for the class.

The following week, we continued to do various activities that were common during the 1600's. We made butter, wrote with quill pens, sewed buttons on material, and did limner portraits which were typical during that period.



Merry Christmas

Classroom News - Middle School

Mrs. Brooks' News:

In **sixth grade Bible** students are preparing scripts and will be performing their skits on one of the parables in the Gospel.

Eighth grade algebra students are working on story problems and converting words into algebraic equations. They came up with their own stories for their classmates to solve. We are now solving inequalities.

Seventh grade science students learned about Gregor Mendel and how traits are passed down through genes. We made our own pets with certain traits and crossed them to find out what characteristics the offspring would exhibit.

Seventh grade math students worked on one and two-step equations and solving them for a variable. Then we'll move on to solving and graphing inequalities in the upcoming days.

Eighth grade science students are learning how atoms bond to form molecules. They are characterizing the differences between ionic and covalent bonds and did a lab using candy pieces to represent electrons. Ask your student how **Mrs. Brooks** related covalent bonds to the basketball court!!

And **Sixth grade science** students investigated the Earth and what it is made of from the crust down to the inner core. They were able to use their creativity to write a story about their journey to the center of the Earth - combining their fictional story with the science of what we are learning.

Mrs. Schroppel's News:

Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Our Devotions in 7th grade home-room have been focusing on all the people who believed in the promise of the coming Savior: Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob. We are so blessed to KNOW that the Savior was born, and it's His birth we celebrate this Christmas.



Grade 7 Students getting prepared to tackle the high ropes course at Camp Erdman

The activities that we've enjoyed this quarter could not have happened without the generous support of many parents. The Student Council Glow Party was a huge success thanks to all who donated and the myriad of parents who chaperoned! Too many to list but MAHALO! The Thanksgiving Feast was also fantastic, and besides all who brought (delicious) food, a special thanks to **Mrs. Pascua**, **Mrs. Manzanas**, and **Ms. Scharfenstein**, who helped set up, serve, and clean! Wow!

Finally, blessings to all of you as you hustle and bustle through the activities that come with this time of year. Take a moment to slow down and reflect on the gift that we all share.

Mrs. Pelletier's News:

What a busy time of year! The middle school is "wrapping up" this second quarter, getting ready for our Christmas break.

Sixth grade social studies is finishing their unit on Ancient Greece and will be starting a unit on Ancient Rome. In seventh grade geography each student completed a three-dimensional country map project and a unit on Middle America and the Caribbean.

Eighth grade American history has been learning about the United States Constitution and the beginnings of our government under Washington, Adams, and Jefferson. **Eighth graders** also helped put on a skit about the ten lepers for the school's Thanksgiving chapel.

The **sixth grade English** students have completed a book report/diorama project and are hard at work finishing up their Science Fair research paper. Merry Christmas!

Miss Morris' News:

Congratulations to **Sirena Linton**, **Emma Lindsey**, **Sophia Sagarese**, **Mckayla McCullah**, **Mackenzie Plunkett**, **Fenua Aiu**, and **Josh Gonzalez** who competed in our Cross Country Meet in November. The junior varsity runners ran a mile course including several hills and the varsity runners ran a mile and a half of the same course. Each of our runners did a great job and pushed themselves to the finish line. Keep running!

Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!



Check out the New Website!

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!



No Aftercare

Friday, December 20 is the last day of school before the beginning of the Winter Intersession. There is early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. with **NO AFTERCARE**. Please plan accordingly.



Christmas Services

You are invited to worship with us during the holiday season. Saint Mark Lutheran Church is offering Advent church services on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. and special services on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day:

Christmas Eve Services at 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m.

You're Invited

Athletics

JV volleyball ended with a potluck celebration of the great season. The boys and girls learned a lot and had fun. Thanks to Coach Tony for all of his hard work and time teaching the 5th-8th graders not only volleyball skills but other life lessons as well.



We had several students participate in the **cross country** meet held last month. What a neat experience. Thank you, **Miss Morris** and **Mrs. Brooks**, for coaching them.



Our **varsity basketball** season for 7th and 8th grade boys and girls has begun. Practices are every day from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Their games will start in mid-January with the post-season tournament held during the first week of March. We are looking forward to an exciting season.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the

2014 Rummage Sale!

Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Tuesday, January 14 at 5:30 p.m.** when we'll be planning for the Rummage Sale on February 15, 2014.



This & That

For the **December chapel offerings**, please bring unwrapped new toys, money, and food for Windward Oahu's needy keiki. Kindergartners and their 8th grade chapel partners will do the shopping. Mahalo to Price Busters for giving us a 20% discount at their Let's Party store.

Everyone is invited on Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m. to the **K-2 Christmas musical** entitled, *The Christmas Alphabet*.

Also, you are all invited to please join us for the **Grades 3-4 Choir & Beginning Band Christmas Program** on Tuesday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. and the **Grades 5-8 Choirs & Advanced Band Christmas Program** on Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m.



Mrs. Gundermann sharing some heartfelt memories at the gala

A **BIG Mahalo** goes to everyone for supporting Saint Mark's **4th Annual Benefit Gala**. We are extremely pleased to have raised approximately

\$30,000. We owe our special thanks to our Gala Committee and our Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) for their hard work!



Keolaulani Hālau 'Ōlapa O Laka performs beautifully at the gala



Frank Delima shares some insight and humor with the students

Congratulations to **Halle Inouye**, grade 3, our school spelling bee school champion, and **Moani Manu**, grade 6, runner-up. These two will represent Saint Mark at the Windward District Bee on January 14, and attempt to advance to the State Bee.

Saint Mark offers a special mahalo to its Platinum level sponsor at the 4th Annual Benefit Gala - **Ed and Veronica Buck** of **E.A. Buck Family of Companies**.



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