A Message from the Head of School

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 three new educators to the Saint Mark ohana this year - Mrs. Miriam McMillian (grade 2), Mrs. Vanessa Souki (grades 6-8), and Ms. Lorien Pelletier (grades 6-8). Please join me in extending them a warm aloha as they join our family.

The complete 2014-2015 Saint Mark faculty and staff are listed as follows:

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

- **Middle School Science, Math & Bible** - Ms. Pelletier
- **Middle School English, Math & Bible** - Mrs. Schroppel
- **Middle School Social Studies, English & Bible** - Mrs. Souki
- **Middle School, P.E. & Director of Christian Education** - Ms. Morris
- **Assistant Head of School, Director of School Programs & Athletics** - Mrs. Gibo
- **Kindergarten Educational Assistant & Before Care Worker** - Mrs. Akaka
- **Grade 1 Educational Assistant & After Care Worker** - Ms. Courtney Gibo
- **Library, Grade 1, 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!

### Building for the Future - Early Education Facility!

As was officially announced last spring, Saint Mark Church and School have kicked-off a multi-year endeavor to raise money for the construction of a new early education building on the footprint of the current administrative offices, kindergarten room, and computer room. Preliminary plans call for the new building to include three pre-school classrooms, library, technology center, meeting rooms and administrative offices.

The fundraising efforts have gotten off to a great start, but we need everyone’s help to bring our plans to fruition. Our most immediate and pressing goal is to **raise $100,000 by this December**. Please call the school office to set up a meeting with Mr. Gaudi to learn more about how you can support this very important project. Mahalo Nui Loa!
Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

**Kindergarten:** On your mark, get set, go! Kindergarten is off to a fantastic start! The kindergarteners were excited to start kindergarten at Saint Mark Lutheran school. During these first weeks the students have been busy getting to know each other and making new friends, taking care of their class pets, Rocky and Stanley, and learning a lot about numbers and letters. They also got a chance to meet and spend time with their eighth grade chapel buddies. This month the kindergarteners can’t wait to cool off from this heat and go swimming at the Kokokahi YMCA. They are looking forward to learning lots of new things together this year!

**First Grade:** The first graders have experienced a lot of “firsts” in their first month of school. They have completed their first math minute, and a spelling test, as well as our mini-unit about getting to know each other. They also planted seeds in the first/second grade garden, met their seventh grade chapel partners, and are enjoying writing in their journals each morning. They especially enjoyed their first week of swimming lessons at the YMCA. The children are looking forward to their first Open Market at the end of the quarter. They have been anxiously saving their play money! Thank you to those who came to Back-to School Night Orientation. It has been a wonderful start to a new year!

**Second Grade:** Our super second graders have all done a wonderful job adjusting to their new classroom procedures and rules. They are off to a fast start as they wrap up their first chapter in math. They are also refining their writing skills everyday in their journals and are finishing up their community unit. This month the students were excited to start kindergarten and a spelling test, as well as our mini-unit about getting to know each other. They also planted seeds in the first/second grade garden, met their seventh grade chapel partners, and are enjoying writing in their journals each morning. They especially enjoyed their first week of swimming lessons at the YMCA. The children are looking forward to their first Open Market at the end of the quarter. They have been anxiously saving their play money! Thank you to those who came to Back-to School Night Orientation. It has been a wonderful start to a new year!

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

**Third Grade:** The third graders have been busy during this first month of school. They jumped right into Place Values and Greater numbers in math which has been challenging. Cursive writing is already underway as we learn slants and how to make our handwriting flow. We have also been learning more about how to find Bible passages.

**Fourth Grade:** The fourth grade class has jumped right into the school year! Writing is a favorite subject among the students. They have produced some vivid journal entries and have started to write their first authoring story. To help the students become detailed and descriptive writers we have banned the word “GOOD”. This word cannot be in any writing or uttered in our classroom!! We did a class brainstorm and came up with tons of words we can use instead, such as, marvelous, perfect, spectacular, etc... What words can you think of to replace “GOOD”?

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

**Fifth Grade:** What helps a student be successful? Fifth graders were asked this question on the first day of school and wrote down all their ideas. They classified their ideas 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 our classroom which we called Our Plans for Success. These included doing our best, studying hard for tests, being nice to each other, staying on task, being positive, and many more. The students are all excited about following these rules, so they can have a terrific year in fifth grade!
Miss Pelletier's News:
Aloha Saint Mark Ohana! I am very excited about what lies ahead of us this school year!

In the sixth, seventh and eighth grade science classes, we have spent a great amount of time learning about the scientific method and practicing these steps with a fun paper airplane lab.

In sixth grade Bible, we are working on memory verses and how they can be meaningful in our lives. We have also completed a couple lessons in our One in Christ workbooks.

In seventh grade math, we are learning about estimating, decimal numbers and integers.

Eighth grade Algebra 1 students are learning about variables, functions and graphing.

Mrs. Schroppel's News:
The seventh grade class will be exploring the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism with our new Bible curriculum One in Christ and have started with looking at God and His Word (the Bible!). Our theme for the year is that we are MARVELOUS! Psalm 139:14.

In English, both seventh and eighth graders are reading novels about [future] societies that have found a way to make things “better”. The eighth grade is enjoying Uglies and seventh grade is getting into The Giver, which is a new motion picture. And of course, all are getting reacquainted with the Shurley Method of English!

In math sixth graders have been digging into place value, exponents, and estimation, and are just getting into PEMDAS... also known as Order of Operations.

Seventh and eighth Pre-Algebra students are looking forward to their first test on algebraic expressions and integers. They will soon start a Mathenger Hunt as they learn about how important math is in life beyond the classroom.

Mrs. Souki's News:
Eighth grade Bible students have been getting to know their kindergarten chapel buddies and learning about the big responsibility they have as the oldest students on campus. We made a craft with our kindergarten buddies that we turned into cross necklaces that our buddies got to take home after our first chapel together. Then we made creation books and shared them with our buddies. It has been an enriching experience for all involved.

Sixth grade world history students have been studying the earliest Americans and how they arrived in America. We will be starting our unit on colonization where we will focus on the impact colonization had on the Native Americans. We have enjoyed our new discussion format as we talk about the important, but sometimes controversial, topics that come up in U.S. History.

Seventh grade world geography students are studying core concepts of geography including the five themes of geography. Now we are breaking down those themes into smaller parts like the earth, climates and ecosystems, culture, and history. Soon we will be able to focus on different regions with a new ability to study the different aspects of the landscape.

Eighth grade U.S. history students have been studying the earliest Americans and how they arrived in America. We will be starting our unit on colonization where we will focus on the impact colonization had on the Native Americans. We have enjoyed our new discussion format as we talk about the important, but sometimes controversial, topics that come up in U.S. History.

Sixth grade English students have been working hard at getting into the rhythm of middle school and all the new procedures and they are doing great. We have been focusing on our Wordly Wise lessons and we recently started our unit on figurative language. The students had a lot of fun with personification!

Miss Morris’ News:
Welcome back for another year! PE is simple - bring your uniform and try your best during class and you will do well. I look forward to a great school year with each of you!

Saint Mark Lutheran School is On-line!

Check out the School 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

The PTC is busy at work planning the 5th Annual Benefit Gala...

The gala is scheduled for Saturday, November 8 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 capital campaign to build early education facility at Saint Mark and to our very important financial aid program. 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

On Wednesday, September 10th, the kindergartners will celebrate Grandparents’ Day. They will proudly show off all they are learning and introduce papa and tutu to their classmates and classroom.

Make plans to attend the Fall Family Night on Friday, September 12. It will be a fun-filled movie night with the fourth graders selling food as a fundraiser for their Big Island trip.

September 15-19 is our Fall Scholastic book fair. If you are interested in performing helping out with the fair, please call Mrs. Lee in the school office.

August Chapel Offerings will go to Lutheran Church World Relief. September offerings are going to the Aloha United Way. Mahalo for your support!

Saint Mark will once again be participating in Foodland's annual Give Aloha program! Throughout September customers are invited to make donations at check out (up to $249 per person, per organization) to Saint Mark Lutheran School. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation up to a total of $300,000 for all organizations combined. More details will be sent home in the near future.

Fifth Graders worked in groups to study the cultures of five major Native American Indian groups. Each student constructed a project demonstrating some aspect of the Indian culture. Projects were made in the Indian way using natural materials and then set up in Room 2 for the entire school to enjoy.

The kindergarten students were listening carefully as Dr. Gaudi recently read a story to them.

Please put your child’s name on jackets, lunch boxes. etc. If something hasn't made it’s way home please come check the lost and found in the school office.

Remember, we need everyone's support to help make the 5th Annual Benefit Gala scheduled for Saturday, November 8th, 2014 a huge success!

Athletics

Our first season of the year is underway...varsity volleyball! The 7th and 8th grade boys and girls have been practicing hard under Coach Kuulei.

The first game of the season took place on Thursday, August 21 at Saint Mark against Windward Nazarene. The rest of game schedule can be found on the calendar on our school website. So, check it out, mark the home games and come out and cheer on our Warriors!

2014-2015 Faculty and Staff at the Installation and Rededication Church Service on August 3

Check out SMLS ...