A Message from the Head of School

I hope and pray that you all were able to enjoy some quality time with your loved ones over the Christmas break. I am very happy to report that the faculty/staff appreciated the break, and is now recharged for the busy semester ahead.

As we pass the mid-point of the school year and in preparation for our upcoming accreditation visit in the spring of 2016, we are pausing to formally solicit your feedback. We do this periodically because your opinion means a great deal to us and is critical to our overall success. Your feedback helps ensure that we have the most accurate and up-to-date information to better serve your needs.

Education in the 21st century is very dynamic, and Saint Mark must work diligently to understand and meet the needs of our families as we endeavor to fulfill our mission and prepare our students for the rigors of high school and the ever-changing challenges to follow. And your voice communicated to us through our survey will help us to better do this.

In the coming weeks a letter will be sent home inviting you to participate in our on-line parent survey. We know that you are very busy, and we humbly ask you to take a few minutes to complete it.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your help!

Get Active & Support SMLS

Saint Mark is happy to again be 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 held on Wednesday, February 25 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 Thursday, February 12.
Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: The kindergarteners had a fantastic winter vacation with their families and were anxious to return to school. As they looked back on the first half of the year, they were amazed at how much they have learned as they prepare for first grade. January is a very exciting month in kindergarten. The students enjoyed celebrating the 100th day of kindergarten with lots of fun activities involving the number 100. They were also excited about Wheel Week, learning about bicycle safety, and practicing their riding skills.

First Grade: 2015 has begun with an eager group of children ready to learn new things. They started the New Year off by setting New Year goals and celebrating the 100th day of school with some very special activities. A few of those activities were sharing what 100 looks like with our 100th day collections, walking 100 steps, planting 100 seeds in our garden and sharing a snack of 100 things. We also enjoyed our field trip to the Honolulu Theatre for Youth to see “Suzette Who Set To Sea.”

Second Grade: The second graders hit the ground running in the third quarter. They began by writing about their 2015 resolutions. Some students want to become better at sports, others want to do better at school and a few just want to have fun! They only had a week to prepare for their student led chapel. They worked very hard and did an amazing job. They also went on a field trip with the first graders to the Honolulu Theatre for Youth’s “Suzette Who Set to Sea”. This quarter they are taking a break from regrouping and having a little fun with geometry! They are also learning Shurley English for the first time and have begun a science unit on “weather”. So far the quarter has been very busy...and it has only just begun!

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: The third graders have jumped into Multiplication and are going strong. They love drawing arrays with sidewalk chalk as well as singing skip counting songs. For grammar, they have several new ways of learning grammar which keep it exciting and fun. And they enjoy practicing adding details to bland sentences to make them more enjoyable to read.

Fourth Grade: Last quarter the 4th graders did research on a plant or animal from Hawaii. With this information they created an iBook, wrote a riddle, and became an author of an essay! It was a great learning experience for the students. Through this project they built up their knowledge of plants and animals, the early Hawaiians, and the steps in completing a research project. With the fourth grade Big Island trip fast approaching all the students are eager to learn more about our unique island history.

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: Fifth Grade ended 2014 with a wonderful Christmas party they organized completely by themselves. They formed committees to decorate, plan games, and organize a scrumptious brunch for all to enjoy. In addition, the students had previously selected another student’s name in our class, so they exchanged Secret Santa gifts with each other. It certainly was a great way to begin our Christmas holiday season!
Mrs. Pelletier's News: Here's what we have been up to in Ms. Pelletier's classes:

Sixth graders are studying Jesus' death and resurrection and planning our upcoming chapel in Bible. In science, they are finishing up an exciting chapter on volcanoes. Our next chapter is about weathering and erosion.

Seventh grade math students are working with ratios, proportions and similar figures and have just started a chapter on bones, muscles and skin in science.

In eighth grade algebra we are solving and graphing inequalities and in science, the eighth graders are finishing up a chapter on chemical reactions. Our next chapter is about acids, bases and solutions.

Mrs. Schroppel's News:
In Bible, seventh graders are studying the person and work of God's Son, Jesus. From the second article of the Apostles' Creed we learn that He is true God and true man. He lived the perfect life in our place, and took the punishment that we deserve. Thank you, Jesus!

Sixth grade math students read their awesome books to the primary classes before Christmas. Now they are getting into operations with fractions.

Pre-algebra students are studying ratios, proportions and percents. These skills are very useful for calculating mark ups and discounts when out shopping!

Seventh and eighth grade English students continue in their studies of the language with Shurley grammar and Wordly Wise. The eighth graders are learning new sentence patterns involving object complements, and the seventh graders are reviewing sentence styles. In literature, both classes are beginning novels that they will turn into movies.

Mrs. Souki's News:
In eighth grade Bible students started this year off with love. The memory verses and lessons we will go over this quarter will all be based on love. Since we led chapel on January 21st we also made it the theme for our chapel. The students worked very hard on a video about how Saint Mark students can show God's love to each other on a daily basis.

Sixth grade world History is continuing the study of the Roman Empire with a look at how Christianity played a role in the fall of Rome. We will be going on our first Webquest. A Webquest is an assignment given to the students where they are directed to a specific website to gather information. They learn the content as well as how to use technology safely.

Seventh grade world geography students are finishing up their study of South America with a look at the diverse cultures of the Andes and the Pampas. Soon they will be studying Europe and its peoples during different times like Medieval Europe and Europe after WWII.

Eighth grade U.S. History students are studying the westward expansion of America with a specific focus on the Native American population, Andrew Jackson's policies on Indian Removal, and the Trail of Tears. They will examine current events related to each subject this quarter. Next up is the Civil War.

Miss Morris' News:
Great strides are being made in middle school P.E. We continue to run and may have some future marathoners in our midst!

Youth Quest is finishing up the study of Old Testament people. Next we will start New Testament characters from Mary to Peter to the sheep.

Middle School - 2nd Quarter Awards

**Principal's List**
(GPA 3.75—4.0)
- Nathanael Aiu
- Casey Barreca
- Laura Dart
- Ian Stone
- Jackie Tucker
- Reef Lee
- John Tittel
- Fenua Aiu
- Miriam Ha
- Joshua Hilpert
- Kara Iwamoto-Skelton
- Kathryn Koopman
- Mackenzie Plunkett
- Jenny Tucker

**Honor Roll**
(GAP 3.0—3.75)
- Mariah Basques
- Kaimana Bueno
- Kaila Flores
- Noah Gaudi
- Marc Gonzalez
- Noah Hanohano
- Sophie Hepton
- Abi Hilpert
- Keaupono McGee-Lee
- Camille McMillian
- Peyton Rapoza
- Dane Sumimoto
- Hank Warrington
- Harvey Welch
- Mikella Beazley
- Brynn Denis
- Joshua Kemp
- Emma Lindsey
- Sirena Linton
- Sophia Sagarese
- Eli Warren
- Lani Warren
- Logan Aiu
- Kuulei Aona
- Hunter Mansanas
- Kaleimakalii Saunders
- Amy Warrington
- Justin Pascua
- Nani Pegueros
- Mackenzie Plunkett

**Principal's Award**
(Improved GPA by 0.3)
- Sophia Sagarese
- Eli Warren
- Hunter Mansanas
- Kiara Carvalho-Salazar
- Laura Dart
- Kaila Flores
- Noah Gaudi
- Marc Gonzalez
- Noah Hanohano

**Citizenship**
- Nathanael Aiu
- Casey Barreca
- Kiara Carvalho-Salazar
- Laura Dart
- Kaila Flores
- Noah Gaudi
- Marc Gonzalez
- Noah Hanohano

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The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the Rummage Sale on Saturday, February 21 at 9:00am!

Please join us at the next PTC Rummage Sale Planning meeting on Monday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Congratulations to Mackenzie Plunkett who won Saint Mark's National Geographic Bee held in the chapel on December 12. Mackenzie competed against nine other semi-finalists from grades five to eight. Semi-finalists were Kuulei Aona, Mari-ah Basques, Mana Catrett, Sirena Linton, Mia Nakagawa, Kaleimakali'i Saunders, Ian Stone, Jackie Tucker, and Eli Warren. Mackenzie will now compete in the state-level competition. The first-place winner from each state-level competition will be sent, all expenses paid, to Washington, D.C. to compete at the national level of the National Geographic Bee. Good luck, Mackenzie!

The varsity basketball season has begun with our first game played on Tuesday. Coach Kuulei, Coach Curtis and the athletes are working hard and expect to continue to improve throughout the season. Come and cheer us on! Our game schedule can be found on the calendar on the school website.

This & That
The Saint Mark Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) is sponsoring their Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, February 21 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please make plans to support the sale with both donations and purchases.

Friday, February 20 is Family Night at the Ice Palace! Everyone is welcome to join the Saint Mark ohana beginning at 6:00 p.m. A special reservation form will be sent home.

December chapel offerings went towards making Christmas merrier through the Salvation Army and Family Promise programs. We raised $500 in cash and lots of wonderful Christmas packages.

February chapel offerings are going to Pennies for Patients. The response last year was wonderful and we hope to do as well this year.

Awards (cont.)
Sophie Hepton
Abi Hilpert
Camille McMillian
Peyton Rapoza
Ian Stone
Jackie Tucker
Harvey Welch
Mikella Beazley
Brynn Denis
Reef Lee
Makena Lemapu
Emma Lindsey
Sirena Linton
Sophia Sagarese
John Tittel
Lani Warren
Fenua Aiu
Kuulei Aona
Miriam Ha
Joshua Hilpert
Kara Iwamoto-Skelton
Katy Koopman
Justice Naehu
Justin Pascua
Nani Pegueros
Mackenzie Plunkett
Kaleimakali'i Saunders
Jenny Tucker
Amy Warrington

Athletics

Check out SMLS on....

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

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Congratulations to the middle school students who earned the 2nd quarter principal's award or spots on the principal's list

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The Saint Mark Lutheran School Spelling Bee was held with spellers from grades 4-8. The bee went 15 round before the winner and runner up could be determined. Congratulations are in order for our winner, Aiyanie Park (Grade 4) and the runner-up, Jenny Tucker (Grade 8). These two students will be representing Saint Mark in the Windward District Bee at Aikahi Elementary on Thursday, January 29. Congratulations and good luck!