

Ed Team Newsletter



St. Ann's Model Schools

"Given the right conditions, all children can learn"

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From the Desk of The Parish Director of Education

During the month of November we celebrate Thanksgiving, a day when we reflect on the many blessings that are bestowed upon us. However, learning to be thankful can sometimes get lost in the "busy-ness" of our lives. Our children live in a highly consumer-driven culture. One only needs to turn on the TV, walk into a department or electronics store to find commercials or live merchandise beckoning to be purchased. A sense of entitlement seems to prevail and our kids get the idea that it is okay to ask for whatever they want without having to work for it. As parents, we need to guide our children in a direction that will enable them to earn the things they so desperately crave and more importantly, to be thankful for the opportunity. This leads to creating an "attitude of gratitude" as a regular habit rather than an entitlement. This is a wonderful time of year, when we can direct our kids' attention away from their own needs and wants to those families or individuals who need our support

Here at St. Ann's, we strive to be a community that keeps the spirit of Thanksgiving alive all year long. We attempt to instill in our children the understanding that we are truly blessed and that it is our responsibility to contribute to our community at large and to reach out to our neighbors, especially those in need. Every class at St. Ann's from our littlest three-

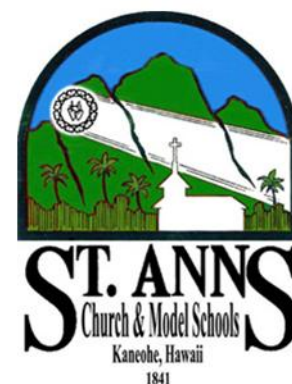
year-olds to our eighth graders participate in service learning projects throughout the school year. Students are taught to pray for others and to say please and thank you.

An "attitude of gratitude" begins and is fostered at home. Although it is hard work to fight the "I want" mentality, there are some strategies and tips that can be employed to help raise thankful kids:

Wanting vs. Needing: Explain to your child that they don't really "need" a new gaming system. A need is something much more basic, like food, shelter and clothing. It's alright to want things, but make them aware that their needs are actually taken care of, and that it is something to be thankful for.

Giving Back: Activities like serving dinner in a soup kitchen or visiting the elderly can teach kids that this type of service goes beyond school. They learn that giving is as rewarding as getting.

Get Some Perspective: The sixth grade class saw a presentation by Fr. Marisi Palepale about his parish in the Philippines where students at the local school are lucky to get one meal a day. The news each evening speaks of families who are in need of basic necessities during the holiday season. You can gently reinforce these lessons by having



*To the Sacred
Hearts of
Jesus & Mary,*

*Honor
&
Glory!*



open discussions with your children or by participating in a local toy drive during the holidays.

Last but not least...**Remember to count your own blessings. Your kids are watching, and if you remember to be thankful for what you have, they will be, too.**

Happy Halloween!!

Halloween is always such an exciting time for children and adults alike. This year was no exception at the Early Learning Center. On the morning of October 31st, parents helped to decorate the ELC with their decorated pumpkins. The annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest was GREAT! Our winners were: Kapa'aokamaehu Neumann for the Scariest Pumpkin; Kyla Caneso-Bantolina for the Most Original Pumpkin; McKenna Kaeo for the Most Beautiful Pumpkin; and Anela Martinez for the Most Humorous Pumpkin. A big Mahalo to all the special St. Ann's faculty and staff members who came over to visit and be "mystery Judges" for our Pumpkin Contest.

Our first place winners in the Halloween Coloring Contests were Maya Chung (3-1), Ava Chang (3-2), Iliana Marciel (4-1), Erynn Kauanui (4-2), Justin Cheong (4-3), Jesse Baker (5-1) and Shaelyn McIntosh (5-2).

The children were the most adorable trick-or-treaters. The Dinosaurs (3's) buzzed around the campus as the cutest bees ever! The Dolphins (4's) colored our hallways and campus as crayons and the Bears (5's) proudly showed off their hand-made masks featuring a wide variety of costume creatures. Everyone had a wonderful time trick-or-treating their way around campus.

We would like to thank all the families who helped to make our Early Learning Center's Halloween so much fun for everyone! Thank you to our Halloween Committee for planning such a wonderful event. We just can't wait until next year!



A Successful Parent Work Day



Have you seen the ELC lately? It looks fantastic thanks to the volunteers who came out on Parent Work Day to help make the ELC look new again. Parents, guardians, grandparents and keiki arrived as early as 8:15am on October 22nd to begin work and stayed as late as 12:30pm to complete the list of chores. These wonderful volunteers painted all of the outdoor furniture and classroom shelves. They power washed the entire courtyard, the outside walls and pillar, and the jungle gym and play houses. We cannot express our gratitude enough for a job well done! Everyone had a great time and all enjoyed lunch bentos provided by the Food Court. We are truly blessed!

Saintly Visitors

Second grade students presented reports about saints which coincided with the annual Halloween celebration and All Saints Day. They wore saintly costumes and were well versed in the particular gifts that each saint brought to the world. Ask any second grader about his/her saint and each will have something to say and each will say it with pride and confidence. Good job, 2nd grade.



Hawaiian Flora

Fourth graders studied plants that were introduced and those that are endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. Each student chose a plant, did the research about its history, wrote about how it was used by the Hawaiians, stated its importance to the people, and where it can be found and its use in today's society. Each report was two pages long and hand written. The students did a beautiful job. Congratulations!



Baptism Celebration



In the second grade, the students are learning about the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. In helping them to understand Baptism, the students attended a prayer service celebrating Baptism. Second graders brought in their furry friends so that they could be baptized. A prayer service called Celebration of Baptism was held in St. Ann's Church. Students created the candles and white gowns that are symbols of Baptism. Each student stood next to the Baptismal font and had their furry friend blessed by the pouring of water on the head along with the prayers of Baptism. In the end all were filled with smiles and glowed with the special blessings.



In the RE Classrooms . . .

"We are made for Service to care for each other... We are made to love each sister and brother

- Our Pre-K students received a lesson from Mrs. Iwamasa on their "buddy system", she teaches her children to *know your buddy, and stick with your buddy.*
- In Kinder, Mrs. Calizar has the keiki sing about walking with their friend, and watching out for each other.
- Second graders work to know each other by name. Mrs. Campbell says "feeling welcome is a big part of going to church and baptism".
- Mrs. Duarte and her third grade students will lead us in our Thanksgiving Prayer Service on Sunday, 11/20.
- The fourth grade class cooperates in groups, while Mrs. Nascimento teaches about the 10 commandments.
- Miss Halemano teaches our keiki in RCIC I a wonderful lesson about belonging and drawing themselves in their house and in church.
- Our RCIC II children learn about service through the example of their teacher, Mrs. Bautista who is also a reader at the 7am Mass.
- The Ricaforts teach the fifth graders that they must have good deeds to walk through the "doorway to heaven".
- Sixth grade students and their teacher, Mrs. Marantz, taught us how to pray the rosary at a prayer service last month.
- First grade students are making brown paper bag "turkeys" to give to our brother and sisters at Holy Family Care Home on Thanksgiving. Their teacher, Mrs. Nirei added a donation of cookies for each "turkey" (pictured left).



Youth Ministry in Action

On Saturday, November 12th, over thirty St. Ann's Youth Ministry students, youth leaders, and adult leaders helped the non-profit organization, Paepae O Heeia, rebuild some of the Heeia fishpond's wall. This is the fourth time St. Ann's YM has helped malama this ancient and beautiful fishpond. They lined up, bucket-brigade style, to transport over a thousand rocks to rebuild the wall. Then there was round two, and the process repeated itself. St. Ann's YM feels strongly about this community service, since the fishpond falls in their own ahupua'a, and in taking care of it, they are being stewards of God's creation.

