

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

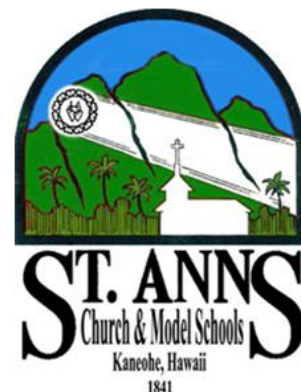
Aloha and welcome back to a new school year! The year is well underway for all three educational entities of our parish. Before teachers got ready to meet their students for the first time this school year, all programs started off with a faculty and staff retreat, praying for God's blessings for all of our programs. The Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs gathered for their retreat at Pa'ewalani and the School and Early Learning Center 's faculty and staff retreat took place at St. Anthony's Retreat Center.

All programs have been hard at work and students have acclimated to their new environments. Mrs. Victoria DeSilva continues on as principal of the Elementary and Junior High school and Mrs. Mandy Thronas-Brown as the Early Learning Center principal. Mr. Bob Noguchi, who was hired in January began his first full year as the RE Principal.

Everyone is excited and energized for the new school year as there are so many things to look forward to. Our newly renovated Parish Center opened this summer and the faculty and staff of all three entities are now utilizing the facility.

The School and Early Learning Center are gearing up for an accreditation visit this school year in February. The faculty and staff have been busy this past year working on the self-study. We are currently editing our document and gathering evidence for our visiting team. The WASC accreditation process aids in developing and sustaining effective educational programs and assures the educational community, the general public, and other organizations that an accredited school has met high standards of quality and effectiveness. St. Ann's Model Schools has proudly received three six-year accreditation terms since 1994. We hope to achieve the same status with the new cycle that will take place in 2012.

We look forward to a great and wonderful school year!



*SS.CC. Core
Values for
November*

*Compassion
&
Sharing*



The faculty, staff and students of St. Ann's Model Schools gather and release rainbow pigeons as a symbol of the journey we embark on as we begin the new school year.

The Bears Go Pumpkin Picking

October 11th was Pumpkin Day for the Bears. We arrived at Aloun Farms and were met with cool breezes under cloud-filled blue skies. The breeze and shady clouds made for a pleasant day. The children learned about the different kinds of fruits and vegetables presently growing in the fields. Then, our immediate attention centered on the pumpkin patch. This year the harvested fruits were plentiful with lots of good pickings. We were able to observe the cycle of the pumpkin from yellow flowers, to green pumpkins beginning to develop, to fruit turning orange, and finally, to ripened fruit. Once again, we came home happy with one fruit (or many) that each child had selected. Mahalo to all the parents who helped the children through the pumpkin patch as they made their choices. This year we had a lot of fathers come to help. We really appreciate all of you!



A Visit from Fr. Benny

On Tuesday October 4, 2010, we celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. Mrs. Navarro told us about who St. Francis was and a little about his life. Mrs. Bagano read a story about St. Francis and how he took care of the animals. The children were able to bring in their furry friends and Fr. Benny blessed all of our stuffed animal friends and our classrooms. Every class ended the celebration in prayer to St. Francis. Special guests included Fr. Benny, Mrs. Barbara Honda, Mrs. Daphne Kauhane, Mrs. Vicky De-Silva, Mr. Bob Noguchi and Ms. C.T. Ticknor.



Pictures from the Pumpkin Patch



October: Month of the Rosary

St. Ann's students are praying to the Blessed Mother with fervor and zeal. This is the month of the rosary. Students bring out their rosaries during morning assembly and with the guidance of student speakers who lead the prayers, voices are heard saying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father in unison. This week, the students of 2-B will lead the rosary and one decade a day will be recited by all. We offer our prayers for all those in need. We also offer prayers for the special intentions of our faculty, staff, students, and parents. Continue to pray the rosary. May all find comfort and peace in our Blessed Mother.



Learning to See in Art Class

Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8 are drawing self-portraits from direct observation. The students are looking in a mirror and are discovering that what they always thought is not really so. For example, ears are much larger, necks are much wider, eyeballs are actually round instead of oval and shoulders are much broader. The great discovery is that drawing yourself is not that difficult if you focus in earnest. The result of all this effort is wonderful self-portraits presented with pride.



Adopt-A-School



St. Ann's Model School recently became the adopted "child" of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce. On Friday, October 7th, Ms. Zoe Williams and Mr. Noel Jaderstrom, representatives of that organization announced to the student body that St. Ann's has been voted in by the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce as their choice as an adopted school. Also gifted to St. Ann's was a \$400 check to be used towards school needs. Thank you to the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce for making St. Ann's Model School their educational choice.

4th Grade Ecosystems

The 4th graders have been learning about different ecosystems in science with Ms. Olaso during the 1st quarter. Their project directions were to create a project board that describes a type of ecosystem. On their project board they had to identify the type of ecosystem they created and name the animals' and plants' roles that sustain their particular type of ecosystem.

Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!

By Bob Noguchi, Religious Ed Principal

Each day we are faced with a multitude of choices and decisions: Should I hit the snooze button for the third time? What do I wear today? Should I eat a Pop Tart or wheat toast? Coffee or orange juice? Do I have time for a little morning cardio? So many decisions, and that's only in the first ten minutes of the day!

Throughout our day we are bombarded by more and more choices and decisions to make, some trivial and some quite important, with serious consequences. The modern media does not make things any easier, presenting us with an ever widening variety of choices in the form of entertainment and advertising, often taking a serious toll on our time and pocketbook. With so many options out there and decisions to make each day, how does a Christian navigate through such a troubled sea of choices? Well, if we take our lead from the One who calmed the turbulent sea, I think we would find that the waters of life, although stormy and rough at times, are very much passable. Jesus assures us time and time again throughout the Gospels, "Be not afraid!"

If we only place our trust and focus on him, we too may find ourselves walking peacefully across stormy seas. This year's theme song for RE/YM is "I Will Choose Christ". The focus is choosing Christ-like behaviors, values and principles that lead us to a deeper relationship with our Lord. Amidst all the choices we are confronted with every day, the most important decision we can make is to *choose Christ*. With that as our first and foremost decision, the rest of life's options take on a new and proper perspective. Allowing Jesus to be at the helm will always make for a more peaceful and joyous voyage.

Parents, I thank you for your *decision* to enroll your child in the St. Ann's RE/YM program this year. Together, let us continue to pray for the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit to choose Christ in our lives, and to nurture that faith in the lives of our children. May you and your family have a blessed and joyous new school year!

*Jesus, I will choose you, I will choose love,
I choose to serve. I give my heart, I give my life,
I give my all to you!*



They decided to say YES! Pictured above are St. Ann's RE & YM Program's newest young adult Catechists and their adult Leaders. After attending a weekend-long training retreat, these teens have committed themselves to be Youth Leaders and Classroom Aides for our 2011-2012 Year. Here they are shown after being commissioned as Youth Leaders at the July 25th 11:30am Mass (Teens L-R: Ryan Chun, Micah Halemano, Tyler Zeilenga, Nicole Condon, Gerra Nascimento & Richard Hernandez. Adults L-R: Lylia Ishihara, Robert Noguchi, Malu Kamanu, Carla Simao & Kuulei Halemano).

Spotlight on RCIC-I...

By Renee Fung, RE Programs Assistant



Pictured left is our R.C.I.C. I (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) Class. The students in this classroom are in the 3rd thru 6th grade level and are preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism. It is their first time in Religious Education! Ms. Halemano (center) has been working diligently with the children. Their first big accomplishment...being able to recite the Lord's Prayer at our Rosary Prayer Service by heart! The students shared with their teacher their enthusiasm that morning and felt excited because they knew how to say the prayer. God Bless our R.C.I.C. I students in their journey of faith and their journey towards Baptism!